

of the Switchmen's Union of North America, declared to-night that Mr. Hooper is vice-chairman of the labor board and a member of the public group.

Railroad union leaders refused to say to-night what effect their action in calling off the strike would have on the walkout of 800 trainmen which was started last Saturday on the International and Great Northern Railroad at a Texas line.

"We haven't had time to get to that yet," was the remark of one union executive.

A day of rail union meetings, sessions of the United States Railroad Board and conferences between representatives of the two groups to-night found the situation much improved.

The railroad labor board informed the union chiefs that unless peace came by morning it would "deal with the unions with unloving hands" in its attempt to prevent an October 30 walkout.

The statement from the labor board was delivered to union committees which called on the board during the day to report progress of the joint conference of chiefs of the switchmen, trainmen, conductors, engineers and firemen, which was to begin late yesterday without taking action because the lease on the meeting rooms had run out. The session was continued at a hotel a short time later, however.

Just before entering the night meeting Mr. Lee gave the following statement to the Associated Press:

"There is every reason to believe that certain arrangements will be made to-night whereby the strike scheduled for October 30 will be called off.

"I am not at all sure what these arrangements will be, but I will say that certain conditions resulted from to-day's meetings which have materially changed the situation and which lead me to believe that the meetings to-night will result in there being no strike."

Warren S. Stone, president of the engineers, said as he entered the night meeting:

"Something is going to break to-night. I can't tell you what, though."

According to several members of the Labor Board the labor committees which conferred with it were told that the board would defer until to-morrow its decision on the hearing yesterday to which the carriers and the unions were cited to find out if the transportation act had been violated in the strike activities.

#### Threat Used by Board.

The labor men were informed that unless the crisis were settled by to-morrow the board would take its most drastic action thus far and that it had to-day received assurances from Washington that the full force of the Government would be behind it in any action taken or in preventing an interruption of transportation through a strike.

Statements that peace probably would result from to-night's conferences of the union leaders were made by several chiefs who heretofore have been termed "extremists" by their cohorts and who have always been among the first to advocate a strike.

Many rail labor leaders cancelled reservations they had made to ougoutrains during the evening.

Early in the morning W. Hooper, vice-chairman of the board, attended meetings of the union heads and presented copies of the board's recent resolutions not to consider wage reduction petitions for any class of workers until rules and working conditions for that group had been settled. Mr. Hooper was reported to have made a categorical statement of the strike order pending formal hearings on wages by the board and to have outlined to the unions possible plans for averting the walkout. He appeared before them in a purely personal capacity and not as a representative of the board, he explained.

Following Mr. Hooper's statements the unions held individual conferences and then went into a joint conference to decide what action, if any, would be taken. Late this afternoon William Burke, representative of the Brotherhood of Pennsylvania, general chairman of Baltimore and Ohio conductors, and Peter Kilduff, an official of the engineers' organization, were to be heard to request deferment of the decision on yesterday's hearing. It was to this committee that the board delivered its ultimatum that he unions must act by to-morrow or he board would deal with them "with unloving hands," members of the board said.

#### Giving Unions a Chance.

These members declared that they told the committee the railroad group of the board was insistent that "immediate and emphatic" action be taken by it, and that this action was being deferred only at the counsel of the three public groups so that the unions might have a chance to act first.

Another committee of three vice-chiefs of the engineers conferred for several hours with Mr. Hooper during the afternoon, and it was reported that this committee also was informed of the board's plans.

The board remained in executive session most of the day, awaiting word from the unions and discussing its statements on yesterday's hearing, which probably will be heard on Friday.

The afternoon union meeting was attended when Mr. Stone smashed the camera of a photographer who attempted to take his picture as he came out of the meeting room. Mr. Stone chased a photographer several blocks yesterday when he attempted to snap the brotherhood chief. Mr. Stone badly cut one finger in hitting at the photographer today.

### LABOR BOARD'S FINAL RULING ON A STRIKE Would Regard It as Evidence of Conspiracy.

CHICAGO, Oct. 27. (Associated Press).

Terms of the railroad labor board's final ruling on the strike, if the board decides one shall be necessary, as discussed informally by members of the board, brought out these salient points:

1. That the impending walkout must be called off.
2. That the walkout, if called, will be in violation of the transportation act, as it will be in rebellion against decision No. 147—the July 1 wage cut made by the board pursuant to its authority under the act.
3. That the board will regard the strike, if called for any other reason than dissatisfaction with the July 1 decision, as evidence of "conspiracy to paralyze transportation."

The board held that the "right to strike" exists only where the strike is called upon grounds set forth in strike ballots. This referred to statements by some union leaders that they feared further reductions in wages and change in working conditions would be made by the board.

That members of the "Big Five" and telegraphers' unions remain at work and rely upon the board to safeguard their interests from further encroachments possibly contemplated by the board.

#### MISSOURI PACIFIC EMBARGO.

St. Louis, Oct. 27.—The Missouri Pacific Railroad announced to-day an embargo, effective to-night, on all perishable freight being shipped by rail.

It was explained, in a precautionary measure to insure delivery of perishable freight before November 1 in event of a rail strike.

### SWITCHMEN'S LEADERS STORM AT HARDING

#### His Views on Negro Problem Cause Sensation in Washington.

#### PARTY LINES DRAWN

#### Republican Members Warm in Their Praise and Indorse Stand.

#### MEN FROM DIXIE DEMUR

#### Harrison Calls Utterance Unfortunate and Mischievous—Watson Denounces It.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York, Oct. 27.

President Harding's speech at Birmingham advocating political and economic but not social equality for the negro race caused a sensation in Washington to-day. No act or utterance of the Administration since President Harding's inauguration has provoked such vehement outburst from Southern Democratic sources.

On the other hand Republican Senators and Representatives were warm in their praise of Mr. Harding's courageous action in going to the heart of Dixie Land and discussing the race question with unflinching frankness.

Senator Spencer (Mo.), a Republican member of the President's speech in this language: "The President with characteristic force and dignity uttered in the language of the statesman what every man who believes in the Constitution of the United States accepts wholeheartedly. It is as applicable to Alabama as it is to Maine. To criticize the support of this constitutional provision is nothing less than anarchy. The colored citizen has as of right equal political, economical and educational rights with the white citizen. It was a timely utterance of the President and all the more necessary if there is any disposition to disagree with its manifest truth."

#### Senator Harrison's Opinion.

Senator Harrison (Miss.), one of the managers of the Democratic campaign last year, characterized President Harding's speech as "unfortunate and mischievous." The President is right in that the race question is a national one and not confined to any one section, and his "unfortunate and mischievous" utterance on the subject will be deprecated by people in every section of the country who believe in the preservation of white civilization."

Senator John Sharp Williams (Miss.) approved some of the President's statements. "I indorse the President's statement that there should be absolute separation of the races," said Senator Williams. "That must be, and I am glad the President spoke so definitely and plainly. I am in favor, and always have been, of giving the negro equal equality before the law for the protection of his property, his life, his limb. He should have every right that the law gives, and there should be no curtailment of that. Beyond that I am not willing to give him any rights. I am not willing that he should have political rights, social rights or any other rights except those he is entitled to before the law."

Senator Watson (Cal.) said: "If the published reports of the President's speech at Birmingham are correct, it is very much regret that he made it. It is an unfortunate thing when the President of the United States accepts an invitation to speak in such Southern States as Georgia and Alabama, and then finds it necessary to lecture their people about the treatment of the negro. As the President is a native of Ohio, he cannot possibly understand our situation in the South, where the negro is almost equally white and black. It is, therefore, a great pity that a Northern man, holding the highest office on earth, should go down in person to the South and stir up germs in the minds of the black race."

#### Some Hypothetical Questions.

"Does the Governor of Alabama, who indorses the President's lamentable speech, think that Alabama should have a negro Governor instead of a white man like himself? Would he like on the Supreme Court of Alabama a negro judge? Would he like to see negro bosses placed over white boys and white girls? Would he like in hitting at the photographer today."

#### LABOR BOARD'S FINAL RULING ON A STRIKE

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### U. S. READY WITH HELPING HAND IN NEW PATH, ASSERTS HARDING

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 27.—In an address to-day at the statue of Henry W. Grady, Atlanta's apostle of national reconciliation, President Harding broadened his gospel of "understanding and good will" to include all the world, and gave notice that if the armament conference fails to bring the nations into complete concord it will be no fault of the United States. He said:

"I believe it wholly consistent to preach peace and its triumphs in that convincing sincerity which an unselfish nation commands and yet make sure about our proper defence.

"Manifestly, mankind is disposed to try that experiment. If, trying it, nations shall fail, it will be no fault of the United States of America. We are ready to offer a helping hand in the new path. We have tendered our invitation and the cordial acceptance which has come from every quarter leads to earnest hope for good results. We Americans have learned the lesson, on both the national and world scale. We fought our war of sections and systems, and decided forever in favor of peace and unity. Our own experience has taught us that we may hope that a like decision will be reached by a world reasoning amid the convictions which follow in the wake of a tragedy supreme."

"It should not be needful for me to repeat that, in whatever contribution we can make to the establishment of a better order, we shall not surrender any of our national independence. America will be for America first, but it will never be a merely selfish America. Imagining to prosper by the misfortune of others. It will stand for the cooperation, the mutual helpfulness, the wide perceptions which mankind needs to cheer and speed it on the way to the brighter and better realm of peace restored and effectively assured, of progress resumed, and righteous aspirations impelling ever greater achievements and even higher attainments."

### HARDING IN ATLANTA WINS PRAISE FOR HIS RACE SPEECH

Continued from First Page.

and sorrow incident to conflict, but he saw beneath the surface the hungering to develop a common inheritance, he caught the aspirations for a common glory, he touched the chords of sympathy which echoed the note of common rejoicing.

"How strangely has destiny interwoven the parts in this drama of a nation's restoration! The same year of 1889 that saw Grady laid away with lowly laurels on his proud and noble brow saw another son of a mother of Georgia and the South entered in the career of national service. In that year Theodore Roosevelt, following his impetuous appeals for better political morals at the Baltimore civil service conference, was appointed by President Harrison to the Civil Service Commission, and his national career began. A son of the East and the South, but already adopted by the West, he had become a devoted devotee of that son of the South whom all the nation had taken to its heart. Think of them, you Georgians, you men and women of the whole South—think of their services and careers—and tell me, for such sons as these would you wish to provide a lesser state than that of the united country which they played their parts?"

"I know you would not, and never will. For gentlemen such as these you furnish, you must at least let us afford a fitting home and setting. No 'pent up Udder' for such as they!

Georgians and Chivalry.

"The other day there came into my hands a volume of the letters of a group of eminent Georgians of the civil war and reconstruction period. In the main, they represented the correspondence of Alexander H. Stephens, Howell Cobb, Robert Toombs, and Gov. Joe Brown. Only recently published they proved fascinating reading as I turned the pages and felt myself admitted to the very inner thoughts which these leaders of the Confederacy were thinking in the immediately following the war. Especially was I interested in the extensive correspondence between these Southern leaders and prominent men of the North which was carried on at that time. It was nothing less than astonishing to note how little bitterness, of resentment, of hatred, and recalcitrance was manifested on either side.

"I believe, for instance, that every family which has lost a member in the struggle to save mankind from absolutism; every citizen soldier who has given years and years of his life to the cause; every gold star mother or maimed veteran will agree that peace is preferable to war, and that to train a world in the ways of peace is better than to prepare it for war. I believe it wholly consistent to preach peace and its triumphs in that convincing sincerity which an unselfish nation commands and yet make sure about our proper defence.

"Manifestly, mankind is disposed to try that experiment. If, trying it, nations shall fail, it will be no fault of the United States of America. We are ready to offer a helping hand in the new path. We have tendered our invitation, and the cordial acceptance which has come from every quarter leads to earnest hope for good results. We Americans have learned the lesson on both the national and world scale. We fought our war of sections and systems and decided forever in favor of peace and unity. Our own experience has taught us that we may hope that a like decision will be reached by a world reasoning amid the convictions which follow in the wake of a tragedy supreme."

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#### Making of Greater Republic.

"Recently passing in a motor car through a section where historical interest has inspired the setting of tablets marking Mason and Dixon's line, I heard a group of highly intelligent people quarrelling about its geography, half of them insisting that it didn't belong there at all, but some hundreds of miles further south! Neither the states nor the election returns give us nowadays a dependable basis for judgment of what is South and what is North, and we have been politically annexing you when you were not politically taking us into camp—and we have been socially, industrially, economically invading and selling as much of your imperial opportunities as we could get our hands on. We have been pooling our capital with your brains and resources, and both sides earning good dividends on the transaction, and all the time jointly making a greater republic.

"It would be hard to find a more fitting place, at all, for such a speech as that of confidence, courage, and determination that is afforded here in your wonderful city of Atlanta. In one of its splendid churches, I think it was the New England Society dinner—Henry Grady, turning to Gen. Sherman, who sat near him, observed that Gen. Sherman was 'considered an able man in his time, though some people think he is a kind of careless man about fire. That grim joke contained the spirit of the South, the courage of Atlanta, the vision of the brighter side of the war as so natural to you people of the land of sunshine. One who comes to your metropolises of to-day cannot but realize how useless to attempt with fire and sword to discourage such a people as this, to extinguish their enthusiasm, to daunt their matchless courage. What chance is there to keep down a people who, when you burn their house, rest in its place a palace of marble; and when amid the passions of war you drive them in thousands from their home, return in tens of thousands to build a metropolis? The reason why the South recovered so soon from the war was that it was made up of just that

### SOME OTHER EDITORS DIFFER ON SPEECH

#### President's Views on Race Question Receive Editorial Praise and Blame.

#### VITAL MESSAGE IS SEEN

#### His Standpoint Held to Agree With Policy of Abraham Lincoln.

President Harding's address in Birmingham, Ala., on the negro problems has aroused widespread comment throughout the South, where his solution meets with general endorsement. Typical of the editorial expressions are the following:

Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal and Tribune: "In the several addresses made by the President on his journey he said nothing to show that he did not feel he was at home amongst his fellow citizens. Nothing was said, nothing occurred while coming in contact with the hundreds of thousands of Southern people tending to show that he was being greeted by men and women other than the few who are so often the vast majority of the Southern people are hoping and praying that the Harding administration may be successful."

Charleston News and Courier: "President Harding's Birmingham speech will attract wide attention and we believe that its effect will be wholesome. It is spoken in the South but it is addressed, we believe not so much to the South as to those who are engaged in the unwise efforts to set before the negroes the false and dangerous ideal of racial equality. This is the aim of an agitation which has been in progress almost continuously since the close of the world war, and while the white people of the South have been the victims of this agitation, it has had its effects. The President's speech should put a quietus on it."

"It may be well that one of the purposes of the President's speech is that of laying the foundation for a new Republican party in this section. It is no easy task and there are many who will believe it possible to make progress on this line only when we see that progress actually recorded."

"On one point the President is, we think, laboring under a misapprehension. He seems to believe that the South is opposed to the immigration of negroes to the North; if so, he is very much in error."

St. Louis Globe Democrat: "Mr. Harding's speech at Birmingham was wise and courageous, delivered by a Northern man, a leader of that party which has so long held the Southern negro in political bondage. It was a gratifying surprise. As the utterance of the President of the United States, it is an impressive enunciation of the policy of the nation."

The wish expressed by Mr. Harding that the solidarity of the white vote and of the black vote in the South be broken up will meet with strong interest. Knowing that the South lies in the development of individuality in voting. So long as white and colored people are voted in vast blocks, as they have been in the South, the public service, so long will the South be powerless in the councils of the nation."

Bravery was required for the utterance of such a speech, and it was well stated uncompromisingly against every suggestion of social equality. This is not a question of social equality but a question of racial equality. Mental, racial, inescapable difference cannot be. Racial amalgamation there cannot be."

"The negroes of the country should be grateful to the man who has definitely stated the case. They should recognize the truth in the President's declaration of racial difference."

Baltimore Evening Sun: "It is gratifying to find that the President has so definitely discarded the old policy, has come to look at facts from the patriotic and common sense standpoint. Some Southern politicians will disagree with the President as to giving the negro political rights, but assuming that a negro is fit to vote and cannot be herded by crooked politicians into a political party, it is not fair-minded Southerners will find no fault with the President's proposals."

Baltimore American: "While the whole structure of interracial relations which he outlined may not prove to be a sound structure in every detail, that question does not affect the general solid and illuminating fact that the President, a leader of the Republican party, did declare against the policy of hitching the negro to the wagon of one party for the supposed benefit of both the black race and of that party. He did so very clearly, and such a policy is injurious both to the negro and to the South, that it makes for racial enmity and hurts economic development. The President will listen to the President, for that is the sort of talk it has been waiting to hear from the responsible Republican leaders."

The President made it plain to the South that while the Republican party will see to it that the negro is treated fairly, it does not intend to give him undue power nor to pursue chimera which are not in the line of progress."

Baltimore Evening Sun: "As long as the racial question remains a political question there will be a solid South and there will be no real solution of the difficulties in which the South is involved. The President's declaration must be taken out of politics, both in the interests of political health and in the interest of the two races. It is for this reason that the President's declaration is so important. If that sound advice when he urges that both races accept as an unalterable condition that there can be no such thing as racial and social equality. If that principle is accepted, it might be possible to work out a satisfactory modus vivendi in which political and economic equality could be made a reality."

Birmingham News: "It has taken some sixty years for a President of the United States, a Republican President, to pick up the broken threads of understanding as they fell from the cold hand of the martyred Abraham Lincoln. The President made it plain in one notable utterance that he was not and never had been in favor of an admixture or social equality of opportunity to achieve equality before the law. That has been the Southern viewpoint. The people of the South have poured forth considerable treasure to help the negro develop. They have educated him, educated him and carried him on their shoulders financially for more than fifty years. But the South has always drawn the line at having a negro man act as the balance of power and decide the fate of State, local and national Government."

"The President recognizes that it is a problem of the South to be decided by the people of the South, and that they understand it best—the Southern people. The South will have no quarrel with President Harding upon his address. If the speech was greeted in a measure of silence, it was because such statements from a President were astounding, and the people were thinking

ing and reflecting. It was not a matter for cheering but for study. It was a wonderfully courageous speech. It would have been so may for the President to have come here and confined himself to a few glittering banalities that would have pleased everybody and offended no one. But he came with this message of vital importance to the South, the Nation and the world. It gave the South a wholly new vision of the clear headed, thoughtful courage of the nation. His address made a profound impression and it will do a vast deal of good in the years that are to come."

Birmingham Age Herald: "President Harding offered a practical common sense solution of the race problem. His views coincide with the best thought in this part of the country and will be cordially approved. He spoke on the broad grounds of humanity and an equality of opportunity, but he drew a sharp distinction between economic and social recognition. It is significant that Mr. Harding expressed the wish that the negro might cease to be a pawn in the game of national politics, that just as he would like to see the South cease to be entirely of one party, he also does not want the colored people to be solidly Republican."

"It cannot be denied that politics has had much to do with aggravating the race question in the South. The cry of 'black domination' has served demagogues ever since the civil war, and continues to do so. That is due to the fact that the negroes have been closely identified with the attempts of the Republican party to gain a foothold in the South and have been used time and again by politicians for their own selfish ends."

Birmingham Post: "It was a tactless address and a violation of the proprieties of the circumstances of the President's visit to Birmingham."

Little Rock Daily News: "Would it not have been better for the President to have taken counsel with the people of Alabama, rather than to have given utterances in a public address that made the ignorant and vicious of both races more vicious?"

Anniston Star: "The worst treatment the negro gets in the South, to be perfectly plain, is the treatment accorded him by the Republican party in the South, which demands his vote, makes him a political asset and then abandons him."

St. Louis Globe Democrat: "Mr. Harding has put the finger on the key to the solution of the race problem. Teach the negro to think for himself and act for himself as a negro with a rightful pride in his race and he will identify his right to existence and to a place in the world's affairs, but on the other hand the negro should learn that party solidarity stands in the way of his advancement, particularly in the South, and he should cease to consider attachment to the Republican party as a racial obligation."

New Orleans Times Picayune: "In so far as his purpose is to plead for improvement of the negro's condition, for better understanding of the racial problems, to strike down the poisonous agitation for 'social equality' and 'race amalgamation,' the President may be said to have spoken wisely. His colored position, a vast reservoir of ignorance, write him deficient in a true understanding of the question and perhaps a little lacking in the 'larger charity' which he pleads. With every year that passes the South is offering the negro larger opportunities, both for education of the right sort and for bettering his material conditions. The burden has been heavy and we have had a great way to go, while our progress has been hampered at times from the outside."

### STRIKE MENACE BEGAN WITH FIRST WAGE CUT

#### Majority of Unions Voted for a Walkout.

CHICAGO, Oct. 27.—The decision of the United States Labor Board on July 1 authorizing the railroads to reduce wages of their employees an average of 12½ per cent, was the first event in the series which led up to the orders for a general strike by unions.

So soon as this decision was rendered a majority of the rail unions voted overwhelmingly in favor of a strike rather than accept a wage cut, although on some lines, notably the Pennsylvania, there were divisions where groups of workers voted not to strike.

The taking of the ballot itself developed some signs of friction among the unions. W. C. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, sent out a separate ballot to his men, when he included in the ballot a question as to whether such unions as rules and working conditions. Mr. Lee held that it was illegal to vote on anything but the already authorized wage cut.


Leaders of the big four brotherhoods—trainmen, conductors, engineers and firemen—met in Chicago to decide what action should be taken. On October 16 it was announced formally that a walkout beginning October 30 and extending progressively in four distinct movements until virtually every road in the country would be covered, had been authorized by the Big Four.

The Switchmen's Union of North America immediately announced that it would join the big four, while B. M. Jewell, president of the Railway Employees' Department, American Federation of Labor, which is comprised of the shop crafts unions—publicly announced that "we would fight tooth and toenail to avert a walkout by the eleven standard unions."

A few days after the "Big Five" strike call the United States Labor Board stepped into the situation. The three members of the public group, who had been summoned to Washington to confer with President Harding announced their plan to avert the strike—no further reduction of wages and immediate reduction of rates by the roads to acceptance of the July 1 wage decrease by the unions. Both roads and unions immediately declared the action impossible.

The board then called the unions into a conference at Chicago, and pending this conference the eleven "standard" unions deferred action. Nothing of the executive of the shop crafts, representing 600,000 men, then announced that they would not authorize a walkout. This was the first break and others followed rapidly until every one of the eleven "standard" unions except the order of railway telegraphers had refused to authorize a strike. The labor board hearing was held yesterday. It adjourned when the unions, at the instigation of the board, requested permission to confer with their chairmen. These conferences led up to the "big five's" final action.

On last Saturday, however, six hundred trainmen on the International and Great Northern began a strike. This strike had been authorized previously to the "Big Four" strike call. What the settlement there will be is not yet known.



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